

The leaders go to pray—today the battle begins



MR. CLEMENT DAVIES

LORD WOOLTON

MR. EDEN

LADY CRIPPS

SIR S. CRIPPS

MR. EDE

MR. MORRISON

MR. ATTLEE

MRS. ATTLEE

MR. AND MRS. CHURCHILL

Strachey defends Socialist directors

Express Staff Reporter

MR. STRACHEY, Food Minister, was greeted by university students with cries of "Here comes Strachey" when he arrived at St. Andrews last night.

He was frequently interrupted by hecklers.

A girl student asked him why some members of the Socialist Government were earning large salaries as company directors.

RUDE?—I'M SORRY

When he tried to reply, students shouted him down. Mr. Strachey shouted: "I wish you would all be silent."

As the hubbub died, he said: "I am sorry for being rude. I will now answer your question."

He did not think there was anything wrong with Socialist M.P.s being directors, employers, agents, or managers of private enterprises.

"We are entitled to earn salaries in any industry that has not been nationalised," he added. "We are not against private enterprise. In fact, we have helped it."

Sir George will help Malta

Sir George Schuster, 68-year-old bank and company director, has accepted an invitation from Malta to conduct an inquiry into the island's economic structure, and to advise on plans for strengthening its financial system.

ELECTION SCAPBOX 'SPENDING CAN'T BE CUT'

Cripps hints taxes will stay

SIR STAFFORD CRIPPS, Chancellor of the Exchequer, said in an Election broadcast last night that national spending could not be cut, and he implied that there would be no reduction in taxation.

He said: From the point of view of the person responsible for the finances and economy of the country, the Conservative programme strikes me as a most extraordinary document—most odd.

How can inflation be avoided and the Budget balanced if expenditure is increased on all sides and income cut down by large-scale remission of taxation?

You must examine the ingenious drafting pretty carefully. Listen to this extract from the Conservative programme:—"If a tenth or even a twentieth of our enormous national expenditure of £3,300 million a year were saved our whole financial position would be relieved."

Impossible

Of course it would—but what about it? Can it be saved? Certainly the document gives no indication how. And in fact it can't be.

Here's another lot of Conservative proposals. They are going, they say, to abolish food subsidies, give the housewife the benefit of food through the cheapest channels, and importation from abroad, and guarantee prices to the farmers.

Well, you know, you can't do all those things together. It's impossible.

Same again

But we are convinced there is no better way of going ahead than by pursuing and extending the same policies as have so far succeeded.

We want, by controlling the power of big business and finance, to free the ordinary people from poverty and insecurity.

HOUSES: BY BEVAN

MR. ANEURIN BEVAN at Kidsgrove (Staffs.) said that his Tory predecessor (Mr. H. U. Willink) estimated that 750,000 houses would have to be provided. I believe him. It is the last time I shall ever believe a Tory.

We passed that mark in September 1948, and we have built 300,000 more—and there are still lots of families in Great Britain without a home.

Mr. Bevan's wife, Miss Jennie Lee, M.P., said at Slough, Bucks. on Wednesday, that the 750,000 figure was arrived at "by the most senior permanent officers of the best Civil Service in the world."

It is a bad assumption that there would be roughly the same amount of employment after the war as before the war.

The Tories thought in terms of always having a million or more unemployed. The Socialists had put an end to that. So more people needed homes.

Speaking later at Stafford, Mr. Bevan said of the Health Service: "It is absolute misrepresentation to suggest that anybody can get a wig just because they want to be better-looking."

There is such a smear campaign going on. You get it in the Daily Mail and Daily Express. You get it from the backwoods-men in the House of Commons.

FARMERS WARNED

MR. DAVID ECCLES, Tory M.P. for Chippenham (Wilts.), at a farmers' meeting at Chipping Sodbury: "One reason the Socialists brought the election forward is because of June devaluation will begin to hurt."

The whole system of farmers' prices is in imminent peril. When a surplus of food appears in the world markets, the overwhelming industrial vote will force the Socialists to import this surplus.

A Tory Government will give home-produced food first place, and then second place to producers in the Commonwealth and the Empire.

PERSONAL ATTACK

LADY DAVIDSON, to party workers at Tory headquarters in London: "Socialists show their fear of our practical programme by their methods of attack. Their concentrated personal attack on Mr. Churchill appears to be the beginning of an effort to belittle one of the greatest men of this country. Mr. Maurice Webb, in his broadcast a few nights ago, opened on this particularly despicable note."

88 'NO CHANCES'

STATEMENT by the Liberal Party: "There are at least 88 seats where the Conservative candidate stands little or no chance of winning. In more than half these seats a Liberal candidate is in the field."

The Liberal Party leaves it for Conservatives to decide, since they cannot have a Conservative Government without the Liberal or Liberal to represent them.

TU men back Tory

Two trade unionists proposed and seconded Mr. Walter Fletcher, Tory M.P. for Burn, when he was adopted last night to stand again.

A 'party' misprint makes them smile

LEADERS of the three principal political parties knelt in prayer, side by side, at the pre-election service yesterday in St. Paul's Cathedral.

Faldstools covered with crimson velvet were in front of their chairs, facing the High Altar, and on these Mr. Attlee, Mr. Churchill, and Mr. Clement Davies knelt.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, preaching, said: "Those who seek election seek power: those who vote give power. But power is of all things the most dangerous to possess unless it is utterly subordinated to responsibility."

Those who seek power now seek a terrifying load of responsibility for the maintenance of this great nation in prosperity, freedom, and Godliness, and for its contribution to the world's health and peace.

"Each elector has his own responsibility for deciding to whom, in his judgment, should be committed this burden of power. By that solemn truth may all be guided, seeking to judge, to speak, to persuade, to vote, according to the best that they know of the principles of God's truth for society and for men."

A correction in the printed order of the service was announced by the Dean of St. Paul's—a printer's error that made the party leaders smile.

It was in the Bidding Prayer: "We will pray that, by the guidance of the Holy Spirit, our people, in this time of decision, may make a right choice and laying aside all party affections, may seek to promote the glory of God, the advance of His kingdom and the welfare of the whole realm."

When he came to that sentence in the reading of the prayer the dean substituted "partial" for "party."

The picture on the left was taken on the steps of the cathedral. The picture above, while the service was on.

Churchill film 'disapproved'

MR. CHURCHILL gives a two-minute summary of a Tory policy in a newsreel shown last night.

But it is a retake of the original. The first take was sent to him over the week-end.

It was screened before his family, and they disapproved of it. So Mr. Churchill made another film—the one shown last night.

Africans will pay for their riots

KAMPALA (Uganda), Thursday.—Compensation of almost £146,000 is to be paid to those who suffered in the African riots in April and May, it was announced today.

It was agreed before the Uganda Protectorate and Buganda Governments, the rest by a levy of 1s. a head on Africans in Buganda.

—Express News Service.

'BUY OFF HELL-BOMB'

FROM PAGE ONE hydrogen bomb does not promise us security—no positive security. It promises only the negative result of averting for a few months, or perhaps a few years, a well-nigh certain catastrophe.

"This hydrogen bomb. What does it mean? It means we have this alternative: first, a cold war armaments race; or second, the U.S. can launch a crusade for world-wide atomic peace. Which way are you going to choose?"

"Let us cast aside all old thinking. Let us tap at the roots of our imagination and ingenuity. Let us not regard any suggestion as too startling or unconventional. Let us be inspired and disciplined by our code of ethics and democratic peace-loving decisions."

"If you accept my suggestion—10,000 million dollars for elimination of the next five years—we would have made the cheapest monetary bargain in our history."

"We would probably have saved mankind from destruction by fire. For how can it be possible for free institutions to flourish in a situation where military and civil defences must be ceaselessly poised to meet an attack that might burn up 50,000,000 Americans?"

"And remember—that would not happen in the space of one evening. It would happen in the space of a few minutes. How can you contemplate that?"

'Challenge Soviet'

He proposed that the U.S. should challenge Russia to allow a meeting of the United Nations in Moscow to discuss atomic peace—and publish the proposal in Soviet newspapers.

In 1945 and 1946, when thoughts were focused on the Hiroshima bomb, the U.S. had a chance to wage atomic peace. But had not exploited it.

"Our present concern with the hydrogen bomb furnishes a second opportunity. I do not think a third will be given us," he said.

Women heckle Gaitskell, say—PAY UP? BUT YOU'VE CLEANED US OUT

By ANNE COUPAR

MR. HUGH GAITSKELL, Minister of Fuel, ran through gusts of wind and hail across a school playground at Enfield last night. He was the guest speaker at a meeting in support of Mr. Ernest Davies, Socialist candidate for Enfield East.

Mr. Davies, apologising for the small audience—the hall, seating 250, was little more than half full at the start—said:—

The weather accounts for it. I hope those who meant to come here tonight, and are sitting in front of a blazing fire, or even a gas or electric fire, will give a thought to the Minister and be grateful to him for the supplies he provides. "Load laughter and a woman's voice. "Oh, come now!"

Union leaders met at York next Thursday to consider the next step.

'No rise—it's best for you'

Engineers' claim for a 21-a-week pay increase was rejected yesterday "in their own interests."

Sir Alexander Ramsay, for the employers, argued that an increase would put many firms out of business—and their workers out of jobs.

THE PRICE... Said Mr. Gaitskell, "Cast your memory back to the period before the war and what comes to your minds about coal?"

A man: "It was cheaper." (Laughter.) "It was coal then, not slate."

"Oh no," remonstrated Mr. Gaitskell. "I would have said the main thing to remember was that it was a very unhappy industry."

He went on to give productivity figures, production, and the Press gets the word "productivity" right when there were loud shouts of "Absenteeism and a man said: 'Stop the miners taking days off to go to the races and you'll get more coal.'"

Gaitskell: "I'm shocked to hear you say that. I respect people outside the industry objecting to miners having a day off occasionally."

...AND QUALITY

He went on: "I can assure you the quality of coal is not so different from the coal in 1946."

The woman: "Ask any housewife." (Load applause.)

Mr. Gaitskell: "I have a housewife in my own home, you know. Then, confidentially, 'I admit, from time to time, there are arguments.'"

Five women at the front shook their heads at the collection book. "Come on, you've had your fun, pay up," smiled Mr. Gaitskell. One of the women: "You and your taxes have cleaned us out."

CROSSWORD